

REMARKS

Claims 25-46 remain in this application. Claims 1-24 have been canceled. Claims 25-46 has been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for measuring a contour variation of a measuring area on an object. The method includes the steps of: irradiating the measuring area with a light beam, wherein reflection or transmission of the beam occurs; splitting the transmitted or reflected beam; combining the split beams with each other and observing a fringe pattern representing a differential phase between the split beams; varying the phase of the split beams relative to each other, such that the differential phase is kept within the range of 2π ; calculating an optical path length difference from the differential phase; and relating the optical path length difference to the contour variation of the object.